

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
DECEMBER 18, 2007**

PRESENT: Commissioners John M. Hyk (Chairman), Donald P. Berry, Sr. and Amy R. Fowler. Also present were Treasurer David Parkman, Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell, Communications Director Owen Smith and County Clerk Barbara Arseneau.

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER REPORT:

O. Smith reported the following to the County Commissioners:

1. **NORTHPORT TOWER:** O. Smith informed the Commissioners that this is now a “dead” issue, mainly because the Lessor would not accept the Maine Tort Claim Limit and insisted on a \$5,000,000.00 minimum coverage. O. Smith stated that eventually he would talk with the Town of Northport to partner on a tower at the Northport Fire Department building, which would hold two microwaves and an antenna stick, etc. O. Smith said he will be looking for any grant money that might be available.
 2. Regarding the proposed 2008 Communications Center budget, O. Smith noted that the Budget Committee did not fund enough money for either the current dispatching schedule or the one which included two additional full time employees. At this point, he was recommending going with the new schedule. The Communications Center started with twelve (12) employees back in 2001 and is still at that number. He noted that the Sheriff has a call-sharing arrangement with the State because the County is busy, yet the Communications Center has never added staff. The City of Belfast portion is getting busier and the Communications Center handles its calls. A new schedule is needed because O. Smith believed that it would save money in the long run.
 3. The Communications Center Board is now down to eight members. It is supposed to be thirteen (13) altogether. Eugene Ellis, former member, was not re-voted as selectmen, which O. Smith stated was “too bad, as he was a good member.” A. Fowler had not been able to find a willing member from her Commissioners District and the Lincolnville Police Chief is not on it. O. Smith said he would be recommending bringing Islesboro back on the Board. Nobody from that town has been on the Board since it was first formed. Islesboro Law Enforcement Officer Fred Porter may be interested. The Board would be meeting this coming Thursday. O. Smith explained that some aspects of the arrangement with the Board do not work because it is the County Commissioners who “run things.” In all the other counties, this board is advisory only. He realized his observation might irritate some on the board, which was not his intention but he felt that it needed to be said to the Commissioners.
- A. Fowler relayed a recent experience she had with the Communications Center, in which a dispatcher went out of her way and used technological expertise to get in touch with A. Fowler to let her know of a medical crisis in her family. O. Smith further explained that when a dispatcher is on an EMD call, one of the other dispatchers is involved in getting the ambulance out there, etc. because the first dispatcher is tied up with that EMD call. Now that EMD, is mandated it has really changed the dynamics of things.
- D. Parkman stated that the town of China has to pay \$47,000.00 more to Kennebec County now that the County is not running the dispatch center in Kennebec County.

J. Hyk asked what would happen if O. Smith runs out of money in the 2008 budget and stated that he did not want the County to be sued because services weren't provided. He would rather spend money on the services. O. Smith agreed.

D. Parkman said that last year seven of the departments were overdrawn and he didn't believe this would be an issue. He added, "This is the most important department in the County."

4. O. Smith also reported that the Kennebec County Administrator "jumped the gun" before getting approval from the Kennebec Commissioners and the "Super Center" (CMRCC) will take over their Communications Center.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Present for this report were Treasurer David Parkman and Deputy Treasurer Karen Trussell, who reported the following:

REVENUE CONTROL REPORT:

Revenue was estimated at \$160,000.00. D. Parkman reported that the County has received \$217,860.77 so far, which is about \$52,000.00 above what was anticipated.

APPROPRIATIONS:

D. Parkman informed the Commissioners that the total budget is 95% expended. A. Fowler asked how much in this warrant was inmate board invoices. K. Trussell replied that it was \$50,000.00. It was noted that the Treasurer's, Commissioners' and Facilities budgets are holding well.

J. Hyk asked what the Treasurer would recommend at this point. D. Parkman stated that \$1,114,745.00 was the balance today in the County's general fund, that there was about \$313,000.00 left in the current budget and noted that there would be two more warrants and a payroll. One payroll would be about \$120,000.00 and he estimated another \$100,000.00 would be expended on invoices. He thought there would be roughly \$80,000.00 left from the 2007 budget. He estimated that there will probably be between \$800,000.00 and \$900,000.00 in undesignated funds including previous years. He reported that there are no more jail bills coming in at this point. If there is \$200,000.00 to \$300,000.00 in Jail bills, they will be paid right away. He recalled that when he first took office, the County had to borrow on the tax anticipation note right at the first of the year.

J. Hyk asked if the undesignated funds could be held onto and used as needed and was told that this could be done as long as it was handled within the parameters of the Maine Statutes. A. Fowler asked if this money could be held onto and used as needed and J. Hyk reminded her that it has to be put into the General Fund first, but wondered if there was any difference in moving it now or in January. D. Parkman replied that it was best to leave it and gather more interest.

D. Parkman recommended moving \$10,000.00 from 2006 undesignated funds into the Future Land and Buildings Reserve (0131) account and \$75,000.00 into the Facilities - All Other Reserve Account (0160). ****A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconding moving \$10,000.00 from the 2006 undesignated funds in to the Future Land & Buildings Reserve(0131) and \$75,000.00 into the Facilities – All Other Reserve Account (0160.) Unanimous.**

D. Parkman told the Commissioners that the Sheriff had called K. Trussell and had asked if there should be a budget separated out and called "Board." D. Parkman expressed his opinion that this was a Jail

expenditure and it made no sense to create a separate budget for this. He illustrated with Probate Court Appointments being separated out as its own budget and that this would be illogical. He felt that all that was required would be an explanation to the Budget Committee.

It was noted that the Communications part-time account is over 80% expended.

OVERLAY RECOMMENDATION:

D. Parkman reminded the Commissioners that the 2007 Overlay was \$120,000.00 and suggested doing that again or possibly \$127,000.00. The Commissioners said they would take these suggestions into consideration.

The Mileage Rate was briefly discussed.

****A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to have the County's 2008 mileage reimbursement rate be the same as the 2008 IRS Current Standard Rate. Unanimous.**

WARRANTS:

D. Parkman read expenditures from the Capital, Active and Restricted Accounts.

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded authorizing payment of November 28, 2007 Reserve Accounts in the amount of \$34,528.04. Unanimous.**

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded authorizing payment of the November 28, 2007 Regular Accounts Payable Warrant in the amount of \$575,510.71. Unanimous.**

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded authorizing payment of the December 18, 2007 Reserve Accounts Payable Warrant in the amount of \$16,350.15. Unanimous.**

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded authorizing payment of the December 18, 2007 Regular Accounts Payable Warrant in the amount of \$185,735.06. Unanimous.**

****A. Fowler moved, J. Hyk seconded accepting the Treasurer's Report. Unanimous.**

CLOSING REGISTRIES OF PROBATE AND DEEDS BOOKS FOR 2007:

Present to report the total year 2007 report for the Registries of Probate and Deeds were Register of Probate Joanne Crowley and Register of Deeds Deloris Page as follows:

REGISTRY OF PROBATE:

Fees:	\$72,564.28
Surcharge:	\$2,635.94
Restitution:	\$9,918.80
TOTAL:	\$85,119.02

REGISTRY OF DEEDS:

Fees:	\$339,374.75
Surcharge:	\$29,520.00
Interest:	\$1,735.42
Transfer Tax:	\$74,405.21
TOTAL:	\$445,035.38

D. Page noted that this was less than 2006 but was about what she had anticipated for 2007.

WALDO COUNTY SAFETY AWARD:

Safety prizes were awarded to:

1. \$50.00 to Deputy Register of Probate Sharon Peavey for her suggestion that there be annual evacuation & fire extinguisher exercises
2. \$25.00 to Deputy County Clerk Veronica Stover for her suggestion to put up signs indicating where fire extinguishers are located
3. \$25.00 to EMA Deputy Olga Rumney for her suggestion to mount carbon monoxide detectors in the buildings.

**** A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to enter Executive Session for a legal matter according to Title 1 § 405 (E) at 10:10 a.m. Unanimous.**

**** D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to exit Executive Session at 10:32 a.m.**

No action was taken by the Commissioners at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Reporting correspondence to the Commissioners was County Clerk Barbara L. Arseneau with Deputy County Clerk Veronica Stover taking minutes.

1. Swanville citizen Kimberly Corley has contacted the Commissioners Office to report that she is still having issues with Town of Swanville ignoring what the Commissioners ordered them to do regarding her property. The Commissioners recalled that during the tax abatement hearing held for Ms. Corey on October 9, 2009, they had suggested to the Selectmen that the Town of Swanville have an assessor go out to assess Ms. Corley's property and to map out the condition, square footage, etc. so that Ms. Corley would be able to read and understand her tax bill, as it had been unclear. An inquiry made by the Commissioners Office of the Town of Swanville regarding Ms. Corley's allegation that the Selectmen were not following the Commissioners orders had produced a copy of a letter dated December 12, 2007 to Ms. Corley from Swanville Tax Collector Peter Kerrigan being the County Commissioners Office along with a copy of the check the Town of Swanville sent out to her in the amount of \$1,500.00 on December 17, 2007. The Commissioners were not clear on what they could do about the matter of the Selectmen re-assessing Ms. Corley's property. After contacting District Attorney Geoffrey Rushlau, the Commissioners had learned that this was not his area of expertise, and B. Arseneau had learned from a quick consultation with Attorney Rob Crawford of BernsteinShur was that since BernsteinShur is representing the Town of Swanville in this matter, he could not assist the County but did note that this was "civil matter at this point." D. Berry felt that Ms. Corley might get somewhere if she contacted Legislator Mike Thibodeau and explain her situation to him.

2. Brooks citizen Clifford H. Bennett has a request for a tax abatement decision appeal hearing regarding a gravel pit. The Commissioners decided to hold that hearing during their January 2008 court session.

3. A copy of a letter received November 14, 2007 from the Town of Troy Selectmen stated their support of a "flat line budget for Waldo County." The Commissioners noted that this was one of many

letters they had received from various selectmen this fall, and that the Budget Committee voted to pass the 2008 Budget at 8.65% above the 2007 budget.

4. A letter from Mayor Michael Hurley to the Waldo County Commissioners, the County Clerk and Staff was received December 12, 2007, in which Mayor Hurley thanked them for the pleasure of working with them over the last 7.25 years. He stated that it was his honor to learn and understand all that is done for Belfast and the County.

5. Human Resources/Payroll Director Michelle Wadsworth submitted to the Commissioners a copy of a memo to all Department Heads dated December 18, 2007 providing pay scales for them to use on their payroll presentation sheets until the 2008 wages for union employees in the collective bargaining process are completed.

6. New Hire: Sheriff Story sent notice that Pamela Daniello has been re-hired as part-time Cook at the Waldo County Correctional Center effective November 27, 2007 for unspecified hours at the current part-time rate.

****A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded approving the re-hire of Pamela Daniello as part-time Cook at the Waldo County Correctional Center effective November 27, 2007 for unspecified hours at \$11.40 per hour, which is the current part-time rate. Unanimous.**

7. Resignation: Corrections Officer Frank Grillo from the Waldo County Correctional Center effective November 24, 2007. This replaces the original date Officer Grillo intended to resign.

****A. Fowler move, D. Berry seconded accepting with regret the resignation of Corrections Officer Frank Grillo effective November 24, 2007. Unanimous.**

8. The following employees are due pay step increases, which were noted by the Commissioners:

- Deputy Daniel Thompson received a pay increase from \$14.96 to \$15.27 per hour effective December 14, 2007 for graduating from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy on that date.
- Deputy Glenn Graef received a pay increase from \$15.30 to \$15.70 per hour effective December 14, 2007 for graduating from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy on that date.
- Deputy Merl Reed received a pay increase 8-year increase from \$16.55 to \$17.05 per hour effective December 5, 2007 for reaching the eight-year step.
- Corrections Officer Matthew Hall received a pay increase from \$14.50 to \$15.05 per hour effective December 1, 2007 for reaching the five-year step.
- Dispatcher Richard Farmer received a pay increase from \$14.99 to \$16.29 per hour effective December 15, 2007 for reaching the five-year step.
- Deeds Clerk Amy Keller received a pay increase to \$12.86 per hour effective November 21, 2007 for reaching the two-year step.
- Deputy EMA Director Olga Rumney will receive a pay increase to \$14.82 per hour effective January 3, 2008 for reaching the two-year step.

9. County Clerk Barbara Arseneau requested an extension to the end of March 2008 to use 44.75 hours of unused 2007 vacation leave.

**** A. Fowler moved, D. Berry seconded to grant that request. Unanimous.**

10. The staff at the Commissioners and Treasurer's Offices requested being allowed to close the office to the public, etc. on the following dates to do year-end/year beginning work: Full days January 3 and 4, 2008, and half-days January 11, 18 and 25, 2008. The Commissioners granted this request, provided signs were put on the doors and the County Departments were notified in advance.

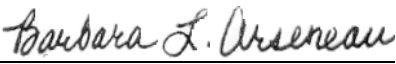
11. The Maine Sheriffs' Association Annual Membership Meeting & Awards Banquet is January 16-18, 2008 at the Holiday Inn By the Bay in Portland, and the Commissioners are invited to attend. All three Commissioners regretted that they would not be able to do so.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded to accept the minutes from the November 13, 2007 Commissioners Court Session. Unanimous.**

**** J. Hyk moved to adjourn meeting; D. Berry seconded. Unanimous.**

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by 
Waldo County Clerk